

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this patent application. By this response, claims 8-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested.

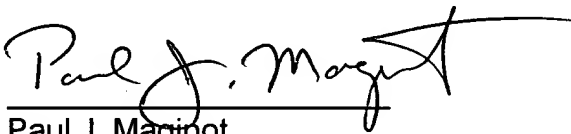
Restriction

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the September 24, 2002 Office Action, please restrict examination to claims 1-7 of the present application. Accordingly, please withdraw claims 8-20 from further consideration. Applicants are retaining claims 8-20 in the patent application pending a decision regarding the filing of a divisional patent application directed at these claims.

Conclusion

A prompt and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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